

OCTOBER 27, 2019  
REFORMATION SUNDAY



*God establishes a new relationship.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 8:31-36</b>	<b>Jesus sets us free</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jeremiah 31:31-34</b>	<b>A new covenant</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Romans 3:19-28</b>	<b>Righteousness through faith</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Habakkuk 2:1-4</b>	<b>The righteous live by faith</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Exodus 25:17-22</b>	<b>Mercy seat of God</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Galatians 2:15-21</b>	<b>Saved by faith</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 46</b>	<b>God is our strength</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 20:27-38</b>	<b>Jesus speaks of the resurrection</b>

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**Jeremiah 31:33 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Gracious God, thank you for freeing us from the power of sin and giving us a loving relationship to you and to others, through Christ our Lord, amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we are grateful for the food we see and glad that Jesus set us free, forever thankful let us be. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the grace of God and our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and free you to love God and others with joy and gladness.



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## HYMN OF THE WEEK



*Dear Christians,  
One and All, Rejoice*

## CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about one of your favorite gifts ever received. What made it a favorite?
- Your faith in Jesus Christ is a gift from God. What is your reaction to this statement?
- How does being set free through faith in Jesus Christ make you feel? Why?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Jeremiah 31:31-34.

The Reformation message emphasizes that a relationship with God will come to us from God's work, God's initiative, not ours. It is not a new message. Jeremiah announced it six centuries before Christ. God's people in Israel and Judah had failed on their own. Israel was destroyed and Judah was exiled in Babylon. It looked hopeless. However, God promised a new covenant, which means a new relationship that would unite Israel and Judah in forgiveness and new life. This is the covenant relationship Paul understands in Romans to unite Jews and Gentiles alike. It is the work and faith of Christ that makes us a new people. Through faith in Christ's saving work, God gives us a new heart, that is, a new way of seeing, relating, thinking, feeling, willing, and acting with others and with God. Why? Because through our own broken lives we have shown throughout the ages an inability to do this on our own. God's will for us will be placed within us, on our hearts. We are joined to God and to all people with faith, hope, and love, not judgment, despair, or hate. This gift is like no other. In what ways do you respond to this gift?

*Pray:* **God of new beginnings, we thank you for our Lord Jesus Christ who freed us from our sins to be a new people united as a gift of grace through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

## SERVICE



God does extraordinary things through ordinary people. Martin Luther was a monk. Raised in the Catholic church by hard-working parents, Luther is credited for having begun the Protestant Reformation in 1517. He translated the Bible from Hebrew and ancient Greek to make it available for the common person. This enabled all of us to read scripture so that we may have an understanding of Christ's saving work. Sharing God's word with others is a Christian response to the good news that Jesus Christ sets us free. Is there someone you know who is homebound and unable to attend worship? Plan to visit that person and take time to share caring conversations, scripture readings, and prayer.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism for the "head of the household to teach to the members of the household." There is a daily morning and evening blessing that includes making the physical sign of the cross. As a reminder of the Reformation, add this ritual to your mornings and evenings this week. As you make the sign of the cross on your chest or forehead say: **God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen.** (Luther's Small Catechism)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)